

compressing said information frames forming said information stream segments;

re-sequencing said information stream segments to produce a re-sequenced information stream having a second segment sequence, said first segment sequence being related to said second segment sequence by an index; and

encrypting said re-sequenced information stream and said index.

E 6. (amended) The method of claim 5, wherein:

~~said [second distribution channel]~~ first medium comprises a plurality of distribution channels, each of said plurality of distribution channels distributing a respective plurality of said encrypted and re-sequenced information stream segments.

GJ 7. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

each of said information stream segments comprises [approximately] a first number of compressed information frames.

B 8. (amended) The method of claim 7, wherein:

in the case of an information stream segment including one or more predictively encoded compressed information frames, said one or more predictively encoded compressed information frames being predictively encoded using reference information frames within said information stream segment including said one or more predictively encoded compressed information frames.

9. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

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of*

a first compressed information frame within each of said information stream segments comprises [a non-predicted information frame] an intra-coded frame.

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11. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said information stream comprises a plurality of image frames and associated audio frames, and wherein said step of segmenting comprises the steps of:

segmenting said information stream into a plurality of image information stream segments having said first segment sequence, each of said image information stream segments comprising a plurality of image frames;

segmenting said information stream into a plurality of audio information stream segments having a third segment sequence, each of said audio information stream segments comprising a plurality of [image] audio frames.

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13. (amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said image information stream and said audio information stream are encrypted using [one of a common encryption technique using a common encryption key, a common encryption technique using different encryption keys, different encryption techniques using a common encryption key and different encryption techniques using different encryption keys] at least one of:

a common encryption technique using a common encryption key;

different encryption keys using said common encryption technique;

said different encryption techniques using said common encryption key; and

said different encryption techniques using said different encryption keys.

14. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein
said step of compressing said information frames
produces control information indicative of [a utilization
level of a decoder buffer] buffer behavior; and
said step of encrypting includes a step of encrypting
said indicia of [decoder buffer utilization] buffer
behavior.

15. (amended) [In an information processing system, a] A
method for recovering information frames from an
information stream formed according to the securing method
of claim 1, said method for recovering comprising the steps
of:

recovering said index relating said second segment
sequence to said first segment sequence;

decrypting said encrypted information stream segments
to produce corresponding decrypted information stream
segments;

re-sequencing, using said recovered index, said
decrypted information stream segments; and

decompressing, using a decompression process
associated with said compression process, said compressed
information frames included within said decrypted
information stream segments.

22. (amended) The method of claim [19] 15, wherein said
step of re-sequencing comprises the steps of:

accessing, from a random access storage containing at
least some of said encrypted information stream segments,

said encrypted information stream segments according to
said first segment sequence.

23. (amended) [In an information distribution system, a] A method for recovering an information stream having a first segment sequence from an encrypted re-sequenced information stream having a second segment sequence, said method comprising the steps of:

recovering an index relating said second segment sequence to said first segment sequence;

decrypting said encrypted information segments to form respective decrypted information segments;

re-sequencing, using said recovered index, said decrypted information segments to form an information stream comprising a plurality of information segments arranged according to said first segment sequence; and

decompressing a plurality of information frames forming each of said information stream segments.

24. (amended) [In an information processing system, a] An apparatus comprising:

a segmentation module, for segmenting an information stream into a plurality of information stream segments, said information stream segments arranged according to a first segment sequence, each of said information stream segments comprising a plurality of information frames;

a compression module, for compressing said information frames forming said information stream segments;

a re-sequencing module, for re-arranging according to a second segment sequence, said information stream segments including said compressed information frames, said first